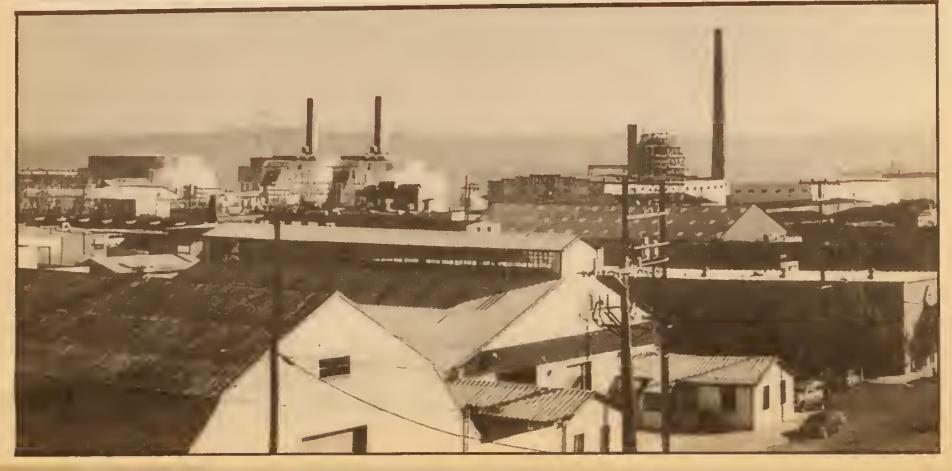
March 2002

Volume XXXIII, No. 2

FREE



This photo is a simulation of the proposed Miriant Power Plant as it would appear from 1-280 in the vicinity of 25th and Indiana streets.

The stack at the right is existing and the new plant is represented by the structure with the two stacks

Source: Miriant Corp.

## Power Plant Ignores Long Term Strategy

By Alex Ponce de Leon

The Mirant Corporation, owner of the Potrero Power Plant, has sought permission from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to construct a new generating unit at the current site near Pier 70. The power plant currently has four units, with a total maximum output of 362 megawatts. The proposed unit would produce an additional 530 megawatts of power.

This additional power output will also result in increased pollution, and unless mitigating measures are implemented, could result in increased health problems for the people of the Potrero district.

In May, 2001 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an Ordinance sponsored by Supervisor Sophie Maxwell demanding that any new generating facilities must result in a reduction of the current levels of air pollution on Potrero Hill and that the Hunters Point Power Plant must be shut down.

The long permit process for the proposed facility began in October 2000. It examines public health and safety, air and water quality, hazardous materials, land use, and design. Several local community organizations have become official "interveners" in the process, having the right to present evidence and witnesses at public hearings and the right to,receive all documents filed in the case. Intervener evidence is used by the CEC as the basis for any part of the final decision.

The CEC has collected comments for their Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Mirant Power Plant, but did not examine several important policy areas and further staff analysis is needed to protect the residents of Potrero.

The two areas of greatest concern are air quality and the preservation of historical cultural resources. Neither Mirant nor the CEC seems concerned with the demolition of historic industrial buildings or the impact of over 30 tons of dust directly on our community each year. The CEC has asked for direct offsets, but has not identified a way of reducing the impact for the 40 years the plant is licensed. "We need to look at the longterm impact this power plant will have on our community," said Assemblywoman Carole Migden. "If this unit is built we are going to live with its effects for the next four decades."

The CEC staff filed its Final Staff Assessment (FSA) on February 11, 2002, recommending that the Energy Commission license the Potrero Power Plant Unit 7 Project with mitigation, including replacement of the proposed once-through cooling system with an alternative cooling system and mitigation to reduce local diesel emissions from buses and trucks.

The CEC has also made it clear that if Mirant continues with its current proposal to use a once-through power plant cooling system that utilizes water from San Francisco Bay, staff would not support approval of the project. Use of once-through cooling would result in potentially significant impacts to aquatic biological resources.

Mirant still requires approval from the CEC before the project can proceed, and Mirant also needs a Port lease from the Board of Supervisors if the project is to get off the ground.

Alex Ponce de Leon is Consultant to Assemblywoman Corole Migden.

### Your Taxpayer Dollars at Work

# Neighborhood Energy Grants Create Opportunities & Jobs

By Sally Taylor

On February 27 the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House hosted the first gathering of a remarkable collection of State funded projects for "environmental justice" in our neighborhoods, Potrero Hill and Hunters Point

The Nabe theater was packed with grant managers and workers and their exhibits: 13 local projects, almost \$9 miltion in grant money, each with the goal of providing us a more environmentally healthy neighborhood. Those curious few residents just there to find out how our money is being spent were dazzled by the array.

Our own Supervisor Sophie Maxwell beamed from the podium. "This really shows how a community should be," she said, thanking in particular Ed Smeloff of the Public Utilities Commission. "People are coming now to look at our developments. We can show the city how to do it."

Director Enola Maxwell called the Nabe's own energy efficiency project "the best project we have ever done." With solar panels already installed and other energy efficiencies scheduled with their grant money (\$475,000), Maxwell expects their PG&E meter to "start running backwards."

Tetra Tech, the company that installed the solar panels also has a grant, \$335,540 to install solar panels and wind turbines at the Enola Maxwell Middle School. The company hopes to generate 11 kilowatts of solar power and 1 kilowatt of windpower every day. Part of their grant money will go towards an education center for the students on the energy efficiency topics.

Most of the other 13 projects are not as far along and relate more closely to the Hunters Point area. One exception is the San Francisco Community Power Cooperative. A local company, M. Cubed, created this co-op to conserve energy in our neighborhoods, train and employ low income residents, and reduce air pollution associated with energy generation.

The Co-op so far has 200 members, according to Associate Director Susie Sargent. It provides both families and small businesses with a variety of energy saving solutions.

Included in their \$1.5 million grant are 15 Energy Star refrigerators, worth up to \$600 each, which they will be giving away to co-op members in a series of weekly drawings. For \$20 you can join up (discounts for low-income families). In addition to getting an energy-saving kit worth more than your initial investment, you get streamlined access to existing energy saving opportunities, energy audits and appliance replacements. There are also vehicle repair assistance programs, deeply discounted energy efficient light bulbs, and discounted membership to the Academy of Sciences and the Exploratorium. They also have tickets to Bay Area Theatre Sports.

The Co-op hopes to reduce the area's energy demands, helping to ensure the closure of the Hunters Point Power

(Continued on Page 5)

### The View Recommends:

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

A Instant Runoff Elections Yes

B Cost of Living Benefits Yes

C Non-Citizens Serving on Commissions/Boards Yes

D Appointment of Planning & Appeals Commission Yes

E Spouse Domestic Partner Benefits Yes

F Citizens Oversight of Bond Expenditures Yes

G Billhoard Advertising Yes

STATE PROPOSITIONS

40 Clean Water, Air, Safe Parks and Coastal Protection Yes

41 Voting Modernization Yes

42 Transportation Congestion Improvements Yes

State Assembly

Mark Leno

Secretary Of State

Kevin Shelley

State Board of Equalization

Carole Migden

San Francisco Assessor

Doris Ward

Public Defender

Kimiko Burton

Democratic County Central Committee

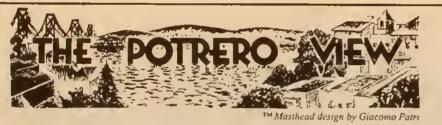
Sharon Johnson - 13th District

Superior Court Judge

Nancy Davis - Seat 3

Donna Hitchens - Seat 4

Alex Saldamando - Seat 14



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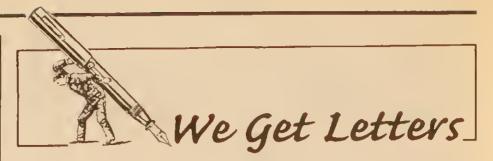


# Have The Potrero View Delivered to You!

Yes! I want "The View" delivered to my home for a full year (11 issues). \$20.00 check enclosed.

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### Readers Sound Off on #19 Muni Changes

Editor:

It took many years of effort to get the #19 bus to come to Potrero Hill. It is the most direct line we have to the center of town. Don't make it into a line that zigzags all over, and takes forever to get to the destination. Rhode Island and DeHaro are the most direct streets. If there is too much noise for some people, use smaller or quieter buses. Leave the Potrero Hill Muni routes alone!

Babette Drefke Kansas Street

Editor:

The proposed new route for the cross town 19 bus has several serious and dangerous defects.

The bus going west on Mariposa Street will be required to turn south onto Vermont Street. This is a steep uphill left turn. But much more than that, the turn must be made facing directly into the Vermont Street 101 freeway off ramp: The off ramp is so dangerous that it has been closed to truck traffic. This is a head-on accident factory in the making.

Presently, the 19 bus goes down DeHaro Street and up Rhode Island Street. The proposed new route will run the bus up and down one street -- Vermont Street. But Vermont Street is no wider than De Haro or Rhode Island Street. Vermont is not wide enough for two-way bus traffic. The consequence of two-way bus traffic will be congestion, delays, bus stack ups and accidents. For example, the International Studies Academy, a San Francisco public school, on Vermont Street, has a zero set back from the sidewalk. The children exit the building directly onto Vermont, already creating a traffic hazard. When the first bus hits or kills the first child, please be advised that Muni and City Hall are on advance notice of a public safety hazard created by changing the bus

Lewis C. Epstein Vermont Street

Editor:

Muni's proposal to re-route the 19 bus onto Vermont Street, replacing the 53 bus, has a number of problems. Currently, the 19 bus travels up Rhode Island Street and down DeHaro Street. The proposal is to have the 19 bus run in both directions, up and down Vermont Street. The 19 bus is a larger vehicle than the 53 bus and runs more frequently. Vermont Street is already burdened with traffic coming off the freeway at the Vermont Street exit. Further problems occur with the doubled parked vehicles in front of ISA High School. During the day, parents drop-off and pick-up students before, during and after school. Numerous delivery trucks are double parked during the day with cafeteria supplies, along with repair trucks and school buses for special events. The current congestion on Vermont Street cannot be worsened by the larger and more frequent 19 bus line.

The 53 bus is a reliable and viable line on Potrero Hill. This is a classic case of — "If isn't broken, don't fix it."

Virginia F. Sustarich Vermont Street

### **Dogpatch Rebuttal**

Editor

Far from being "misguided, cynical and reckless," in Susan Eslick's opinion, my critique of the activities and policies of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Assn. comes from personal observation of and involvement in the DNA over a couple of years or so. I hope that my education and background, including 25 years of political activism in several communities I've lived in, enable me to comment intelligently on the problems and politics afflicting Dogpatch and the City. And as a proud non-native with no property and no financial stake in development issues, I may bring some objectivity to these matters

If my letter last December seemed like a put-down, please pardon my cynicism, but you may notice that disgust with SF's political shenanigans is widespread. I frequently hear my friends and peers, both native and experts, exclaim that the romance of living in San Francisco has worn off. For those of us who weren't driven out by the "development" upheavals of the last few years, living here, and being civically aware, is a daily exercise in hassle and frustration. How can San Franciscans remain smug and morally comfortable in the most corrupt city in the United States?

Ms. Eslick claims that I am "demonizing all developers and officials." On the contrary, San Francisco has some wonderful, civic-minded officials and developers, although they're at a serious disadvantage in S.F.'s dirty polltical environment. And I resent the inference that I'm so ignorant as to not realize that we live in a "dynamic urban environment." I've actually taken the time to study the laws and codes and methods by which this community should be able to grow legally, rationally, and equitably, without driving out people and businesses and ripping off taxpayers. I disagree that violating a host of planning, zoning and housing laws, plus looting millions of dollars from our school district, the affordable housing fund, and other city accounts, is merely "development." I disagree that the use of death threats, intimidation, mob violence, and other racketeering tactics, can be shrugged off as merely "development."

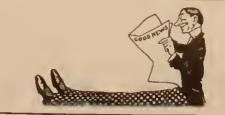
As I said before, some people who previously fought corruption have decided to adopt a philosophy of "if you can't beat 'em...," what? Ignore 'em? Take money from 'em? Simply because it was just too darn hard to maintain their standards. The rest of us should insist on the rule of law, whether our neighbors want it or not.

Gary W. Moody via e-mail

If you wish your printed letter to be signed "Anonymous," please say so, but all letters must include your name and address when received by the View.

The Potrero View, 953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

e-mail address: editor@potreroview.net.





ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (March 7) to discuss issues of public concern with members of the San Francisco Police Department and Fire Station #9, Battalion 10. Agenda will include: NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) with BVHP (Bayview Hunters Point) training coordinators Lt. Patricia Yuen and SFFD's Monica Tran. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the Community Facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments after the meeting.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets on the first Monday of the month (March 4) from 4-5 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street, are open to the public.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of alternate months (next meeting, April 9) 7 p.m., at Watermark Press, 950 Tennessee Street

PHAB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of the month (March 12) at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents Association) meets the last Wednesday (March 27) of every month at the Jackson Playground Rec House, Arkansas and Mariposa streets, at 7 p.m. Agenda will include planning for Easter celebration

Starr King Park Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting and election of directors and officers On Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. Please contact the secretary, Susannc Shields, at 647-2745 regarding nominations, candidate statements, and election procedures. Voters and candidates must provide proof of Potrero Hill residency at the election. Work parties continue every month on the third Saturday (March 16), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.(contact Margo Bors at 824-0471). The park is located at Carolina and 23rd streets.

Potrero Hill Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of the month (March 26) 7:30 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. The agenda will include pros and cons re the proposed location of Home Depot. For details, call John deCastro, 865-0669.

Potrero Hill Garden Club meets the last Sunday of the month (March 31) at 11 a.m. for a potluck brunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussions will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets in executive session only. Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by the board may phone Elizabeth at 826-6359.

- Winifred Mann

# BCDC Provides Forum for Power Plant Struggle

By Mike Thomas

The month of March provides an excellent opportunity for Potrero residents to voice their concerns und questions about the proposed expansion of the Potrero Power Plant when the Bay Conservation and Development Commission holds their public heuring on Murch 7 at Pier #1 Embarcadero at 1 p.m.

In October 2001, IICDC staff forwarded its Commissioners' findings to the California Energy Commission (CEC), which is responsible for permitting new power plants. The BCDC was the first coastal management agency in the United States. IICDC's mandate is to analyze, plan, and regulate the San Francisco Bay and its shoreline as a unit. A BCDC permit is not required for power plant projects, because the CEC has exclusive power to certify power plants in the State. However, where a power plant is proposed within BCDC's jurisdiction. BCDC must give the CEC a determination whether the project satisfies the BCDC's laws and policies.

This month the Mirant Corporation will make one final attempt to persuade the BCDC staff and Commissioners that the proposed project does in fact conform with the McAteer Petris Act, (which is the BCDC's governing statute).

In addition to more than doubling particulate matter air pollution from San Francisco's largest industrial air pollution source, Mirant's proposed 540 megawatt "Unit 7" at its Potrero Power Plant, would use Bay water in a new "once-through" cooling system.

Mirant's proposed once-through cooling system could cause substantial harm to San Francisco Bay's fish and wildlife, according to the National Marine Fishcries Service and California Dept. of Fish and Game. The proposed plan would suck an amount of water equal to one-third of the Bay from the Bay Bridge to San Jose into the plant each year, and discharge it back

with thermal and other wastes. Half a billion larval fish could be sucked into the proposed plunt und killed each year, based on measurements by Mirant's own consultants in 2001.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and California Dept, of Fish and Game identify a potential for the combined effects of Mirant's proposal to cause direct or indirect adverse effects on at least 15 species. These include: endangered salmon; threatened steelhead; anchovy; sardine; leopard shark; brown rockfish; English sole; starry flounder; spiny dogfish; Pacific herring; California halibut; California sea hon; harbor seal; harbor porpoise; and California brown pelican.

Untold numbers of other microscopic aquatic plants and animals, eggs of fish and shellfish, and shellfish larvac would be sucked into the proposed plant and killed. This could disrupt the Bay's food web and reduce food supplies needed by many species. Heat and depressed dissolved oxygen in the cooling water discharge plumes could shock juvenile fish, then push them out of the plumes to fall prey to lurking predators.

Alternatives that avoid harm to the Bay are available. New CEC staff findings agree that dry and wet/dry cooling alternatives are feasible — which uvoids use of Bay water. In November 2001, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) issued a report, which summarized preliminary data from San Francisco's ongoing energy planning process and found that cleaner power generating alternatives could supply San Francisco's power needs without Mirant's proposal even after the nearby Hunters Point Power Plant closes.

If residents are unable to attend the hearing and/or the vote, they are encouraged to contact BCDC Commissioner Barbara Kaufman at 352-3663, and at BarbaraKaufman@aol.com.

Mike Thomos Communities for a Better Environment

### Capitol Update

# Homeless Issue Addressed in Proposed Legislation

By Senator John Burton

As we can all see every day, homelessness is one of the major problems affecting our state. However, California does not have an overall strategy to deal with homelessness. Right now issues and programs involving homelessness are fragmented among different departments dealing with housing, mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, veterans and criminal justice.

That's why I have submitted new legislation to create a statewide Office of Homelessness within the Governor's office to coordinate the state's various efforts to address the problem. Having one office responsible for coordinating these efforts makes sense so the state's resources are spent effectively and so private groups wanting to help solve the problem have fewer state hoops to jump through. This won't be added bureaucracy, but a coordination of what's already out there.

l am also introducing legislation requiring counties to report to the state the number of deaths occurring on their streets due to causes such as exposure. Last year there were 235 such deaths in just San Prancisco, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. There are 361,000 homeless people in Californiia — people in every one of our 58 counties. When you look at these deaths and translate them across the state, it suggests a shocking number. I am hopeful that counties reporting these deaths will help galvanize action to prevent them.

Another key measure I introduced to help address the issue of homelessness is continuing its way through the legislature. SB 1227 is a proposed \$2 billion housing bond that includes funds to increase emergency, supportive and affordable housing.

California has some of the least affordable housing in the nation, and the San Francisco Bay Area tops the list. If passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, SB 1227 will help people buy homes, find decent rental housing and help homeless people and individuals with mental illness stay off the streets.

SB 1227 would place a \$2 billion bond measure on the November 2002 ballot for voters to approve. The funds from the bond would be allocated as follows:

- \* \$900 million for new construction, rehabilitation and preservation of rental housing for lower income households;
- \$290 million to aid eligible firsttime moderate-income homebuyers with down payment and for closing costs.
- \* \$250 million for emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families;
- \* \$140 million for supportive housing for persons who have mental illness and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
- \* \$200 million for down payment assistance, home rehab, counsling, self-help mortgage assistance programs,

or technical assistance for self-help and shared housing.

- \* \$200 million development of homeowner or rental housing for farm workers.
- \* \$20 million improve building code enforcement activities, enhance prosecutions, and coordinate housing improvement agencies.

SB 1227 has received support from a wide range of parties, from affordable

housing advocates to the business community. I'm hopeful the other measures will receive similar support.

Ending homelessness will benefit individuals, families, neighborhoods and local businesses. A coordinated Office of Homelessness, accurate reporting of the scope of the problem and increasing the funds available for housing are modest steps, but steps that must be taken.



### Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107 (415) 826-8080 Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ONGOING MEETINGS:

Board of Directors Meetings are held monthly on the Third Monday

FACILITIES:

Auditorium for theater presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops and receptions
Bulletin Board with events and employment listings
Gymnasium and recreational space
Meeting space rental available for use by the community

All services and activities are FREE

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is wheelchair accessible. If you should have the need for the services of a certified American Sign Language interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or meeting in an alternative format, please contact 415-826-8080 at least one week prior to event.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agenct serving the most needy of the community with emphasis on youth and education.

### LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th St. • 695-6640

> Closed Sunday and Monday Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



### INTRODUCING -

Jensa Woo, our new Branch Manager and Children's Librarian! Jensa has been with the San Francisco Public Library for 11 years, and now she brings her experience and dedication to the Potrero Branch Library Look for Jensa's column right here in next month's View.

### GOT ART?

The 47th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition opens on April 6, 2002 and we want your art! Anyone who lives, works or studies on Potrero Hill is welcome to participate in the show. We will be accepting submissions of artwork from March 19 through 30 You may submit two pieces if they are 20" x 24" or smaller, one piece if it is larger (No submissions larger than 54" please ) There will be an opening reception on April 6 from 7 00 to 9 00 and the show runs through April 27 For more information, please call the library at 695-6640

### MARCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The film Alexander Who Used To Be Rich will be shown at 7:00 p m on Wednesday, March 6 Infant and Toddler Lapsit takes place Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. Thumbs Up Storytime takes place on Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 7 00 p.m.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS: **BOOKS ON ORDER**

Just Like Beauty by Lisa Lerner Mutant grasshoppers wreak havoc and citizens regularly drop dead from toxic exposure in this futuristic, poignant coming-of-age novel

New Cardiff by Charles Webb Best known for his novel The Graduate, Webb has created a quirky comedy of manners that is worthy of curling up with on a cold winter (or, in San Francisco, spring) night

Mobiown by Jack Kelly Ike Savage, a copturned-pil, is on the trail of a philandering husband in 1959 Rochester, New York This exciting read revitalizes the noir tradition

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tomght by Alexandra Fuller A classic is born in this keeneyed, sharp-voiced memoir of growing up white in 1970s Africa. Fuller is a gifted writer. who weaves together war, politics, racial issues and alcoholism in a tender, intensely moving

The Dressing Station A Surgeon's Chronicle of War and Medicine by Jonathan Kaplan From Namibia to Mozambique, Burma to Entrea, Kaplan is an eloquent, observant narrator who presents himself not as a hero, but as a historian of contemporary strife. A remark-

The Power of Babel A Natural History of Language by John H. McWhorter, A Berkeley linguist conducts a learned, lively tour though the lush garden of human languages, rarely letting his tour wander into the tangled wood of academic jargon and arcane illustration

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON ORDER

The Gawgon and the Boy by Lloyd Alexander Fair Weather: A Novel by Richard Peck Ms Frizzle's Adventures Ancient Egypt by Joanna Cole

Mushin Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories and Poems by Rukhsana Khan All by Myself by Aliki My Two Grandmothers by Effin Older

Lea Rude Potrero Branch Librarian



### BUDGET CUTS COULD SLASH LIBRARY HOURS

Mayor Frank Jordan's requested 10 percent across-the-board budget cut, proposed to take effect later this year, could result in a decrease in library funding of \$1.7 million, \$800,000 from the branch libraries. The Library Commission proposed to pair staff in two branches, and open each branch only two days a week. Open hours would include one or two evenings, but the branches would be closed on Saturdays. Fifteen branch employees would lose their jobs. Library Commission members were scheduled to meet with Potrero Branch patrons in April, where neighborhood residents would oppose the cutback, which would mean a 40 percent reduction in the children's summer reading program.

### WATERFRONT UNION'S HERMAN FETED ON RETIREMENT

More than 700 people gathered at the Shcraton Palace to honor Hill resident Jim Herman upon his recent retirement as president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). Herman was praised by labor leaders and politicians, community and religious leaders. A neighborhood reception was planned for March 11. Along with his many years in the labor movement, Herman had been most active with Delancey Street, the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

### **CELEBRATING MS. ROSE**

Rosa Hammork, for many years the mainstay of the Potrero Hill Rec Center at Arkansas and Madera streets, retired this month from her job as Recreation Director. A special day of celebration was planned for Saturday, March 21, with a car caravan wending through the Hill, and ending at the Rec Center for eats and entertainment.

### BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM AT THE LIBRARY

The Potrero Library hosted a special Black History program February 15, with events for children, and later a performance by the Providence Male Chorus.

### BUY ART OR MAKE YOUR OWN

Two unique shops on Potrero Hill, Dragon's Lair Glass Works and Collage Studio/Gallery, not only had jewelry, paintings, collages, and stained glass windows for sale, but also offered the opportunity to learn how to make one's own objets d'art. The Dragon's Lair featured the stained glass works of the owner, Thomas West, as well as the handcrafted goods of other local artists. He taught classes four nights a week, in the hope that the ancient art of stained glass window design could he kept alive. Down the street at Collage, owners Elisabeth de Pourtales and Delisa featured Delisa's handmade paper collages and Elisabeth's beaded jewelry and paintings. As part of an effort to encourage community involvement and feedback, they taught various one-day workshops, including "Paper Collage" and " Painted Surfaces," (painting on non-traditional objects).

### SWEET SIXTEEN PARTY FOR MEDIA AND FILM GROUP

Media Alliance (MA) and Film Arts Foundation (FAF) celebrated sixteen years as leaders in the independent media scene in the Bay Area. Promoting and defending principles of press freedom and accountability, the Media Alliance had grown to a membership of 2700 media professionals and activists since its 1976 founding. Film Arts Foundation provided support services to more than 2000 Northern California independent film- and video-makers. FAF works to heighten public recognition and support of the vital cultural, social and political roles of independent moving image media

### JOB TRAINING PROGRAM BUILDS SKILLS AND SELF-ESTEEM

Located near the Potrero Terrace public housing, the Employment Training Center trains high-risk, economically disadvantaged youths of all racial backgrounds in the specific skills of construction and cabinetmaking, as well as the more general work and life skills that the trainees often lack. The Center is one of five programs run by the non-profit community development organization, Asian Neighborhood Design. The trainees do construction projects for local non-profit organizations, and make furniture that is loaned to low-income housing residents. Approximately 75 percent of the trainees find jobs in the construction and cabinetmaking industries within two months of completion of the four-month program.

### LIBRARY SETS FINAL MEETING ROOM RULES

The City Library Commission adopted final revisions of its meeting room policy, guaranteeing that public notices of all meetings in branch library meeting rooms will be posted at least 72 hours before the meeting. The policy also stressed that meeting rooms can be allocated on a citywide basis. The Library reserved the right to attend any meeting held in its facilities to ensure no unlawful activities are occurring on Library premises. The change in the rules was a response to the protests of residents against the use of the meeting room by the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA). NAMBLA indicated it would hold no more meetings at the Potrero Library.

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO ... Margo Bors' mural depicting historic and contemporary Potrero Hill was finally installed at the Potrero Branch Library . . . The SF Planning Commission approved a plan to build subsidized housing on city-owned land on the south side of the Hill . . . Potrero Police Station Captain Paul Kotta charged that District Attorney's office was not taking seriously the drug activity on Third Street in the Bayview . . . 35 employees of C.J. Figone meat-packing plant at 19tb and Tennessee streets were abruptly discharged when the company closed its doors without warning The six-month-old rent strike at the Potrero Housing project continued. Tenants were depositing

monthly rents into a trust account until the city's Housing Authority addressed a number of gricvances about repairs and maintenance.

- Bernie Gershater



### THIRTY YEARS OF THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

At long last, the fourth bound volume of The Potrero View has joined the others on the shelves of the Potrero Branch Library. It contains issues from February 1992 through December 2000, and it's a biggie! You may need a forklift (or a wheelbarrow) to wrestle it to a reading table! It's intriguing to riffle through these tomes and see not only how the Hill has changed over the past thirty years but how the paper has evolved since its first issue in 1970.



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mail: chrisbks@earthlink.net



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6:30pm March 26 - Maundy Tuesday Feast of Friends 6:30pm March 29 - Good Friday Vespers 8:00pm March 30 - Easter Vigil 12:00x00x March 31 - Easter Potluck Picnic

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# Participate in Local Energy Planning

By Mark Westlund

San Francisco faces many energy challenges, and the California Independent System Operators (ISO) requires that some amount of San Francisco's power be generated within the City boundaries to meet local reliability needs.

San Francisco's Dept. of the Environment and Public Utilities Commission are developing a long-term Electricity Resource Plan for the city and public involvement is critical to shaping this plan.

Public meetings in November gathered input on goals and objectives for the Plan, including developing renewable energy, energy efficiency, maintaining reliabili-

ty, fair rates, clean environment, local control over energy resources, and environmental justice.

Public meetings to be held during the month of March are:

- Tuesday, March 19, from 6-8 p.m. at Grace Cathedral Church (Gresham Hall) 1100 California St.
- Wednesday, March 20, from 6-8 p.m. at Ingleside Police Station (Community Room), 1 John Young Lane & San Jose Ave.
- Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. -12 noon at Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Center, 1706 Yosemite Ave. & Third Street.

The Electricity Resource Plan will consider the issues listed above and present various electricity mix scenarios. Public input is critical to shaping this plan.

The Dept. of Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field. Call 355-3700 for more information.

Mork Westland, Public Information Officer, S.F. Dept. of the Environment

## Your Taxpayer Dollars at Work

(Continued from Poge 1)

Plant. While the co-op will eventually be open to everyone in the city, right now participation is limited to the 94124 and 94107 area codes.

To learn more, attend an Open House, March 26, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Co-op's new office, 1307 Evans St., across from the Post Office. Or, for more details contact Steven Moss or Susie Sargent at 269-4785.

Several other projects involve energy efficiency in our neighborhoods. The HCDC (Housing Conservation and Development Corporation) is offering up to \$1000 worth of free weatherization of buildings for energy conservation in our neighborhoods. Things like attic insulation and door and window weather stripping can cut heating bills in half, according to Bill Randle, who is in charge of this grant of \$300,000. For more details call him at 586-8153.

The Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates have an Alternative Community Energy (ACE) project of \$1,500,000 to train and employ local residents in the installation of alternative energy systems. ACE will be installing 54 solar water heaters and six solar panels in the Bayview area. For more details contact Peter LaBrie at 671-2862.

Also in Bayview Hunters Point, the Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice is also working to educate residents on energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy. Again, the aim is to expedite the shutdown of the Hunters Point Power Plant. Greenaction says they have visited 800 homes and businesses to distribute educational materials with their \$150,000 grant. They have also conducted workshops, training sessions and rallies around energy conservation. Jesse Mason and Marie Harrison spoke of the high rates of cancer and asthma in their neighborhood and the pressing need to shut down the plant.

Improved health is the gonl of a number of the funded projects. The Dept. of Public Health (DPH) has \$330,000 and has hired four community-based organizations to conduct neighborhood outreach, to increase awareness of low-cost or no-cost health care and preventative health care. Each has met or exceeded its projected goals so far, according to Jim Soos of DPH. They are also working with two community health care centers at Potrero Hill and at Southeast.

The Health and Environmental Resource Center has also been awarded \$500,000. They will assess the needs for expansion of the Southeast Health Care Facility. There are job opportunities in this one as well. Contact project manager llerman Cowan at 468-4372.

The rest of the grants involve actual

cleanup and redevelopment of the existing public housing, the Hunters Point Navy Shipyard, Heron's Head Park, the India Basin Shoreline and neighborhood parks.

Twenty-five young men and women in hard hats demonstrated the might of Enviro Innovations, a new minority business enterprise that offers lead abutement and mold and mildew remediation services in the community. Created by Young Community Developers with their grant of \$409,000 these trained Enviro Innovations workers start at 5 a.m. every day, serving our communities plus Visitation Valley. They are the best certified team in the country, right now, in these environmental issues, according to project coordinator Dwayne Jones. They are earning \$17 to \$20 an hour for their clean-up efforts.

Arc Ecology is creating a "Community Window" at the Bayview Community Advocates office on Third Street to act as an information center, keeping residents informed of the status of the Hunters Point Navy Shipyard clean-up. Again, there are job opportunities with this \$396,911 grant. For more information call Saul Bloom at 495-1786.

At Heron's Head Park (the former Pier 98) the group Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) is working with the Port of S.F. to construct a "Living Classroom," an ecological education center and community meeting place. They are collaborating with "green" architect Sim Van Der Ryn to design the project and have \$897,942 to do it. For more info contact Dana Lanza at 508-5251.

The Trust for Public Land has \$300,000 to create Phase II of the massive restoration project at the India Basin Shoreline. Also, funded by park bond funds and Goldman Funds, the second phase will involve a basketball court, playground, landscaping and an energy efficient restroom and storage facility. The first and third phases include a parking lot, a picnic area, trails and wetlands enhancement.

Also working with open space enhancement is the Strybing Arboretum Society. With their \$1,500,000 grant, they are recruiting, training and employing 20 participants from our neighborhoods to improve our neighborhood parks. The in classroom horticultural training portion of the program began in December and work has begun in the parks themselves

All of the above projects need and want more community input. This is your money they are spending, neighbors. If you want to be sure it is being spent well; if you want to be sure of getting your share of the benefits, you must be involved.

Solly Toylor is a longtime Hill resident, and reporter for The Potrero View when she is in town.

### Attend Planning Dept. Workshops

The S.F. Planning Dept. has been holding meetings with neighborhood planners dealing only with the Showplace Square and Central Waterfront areas. Two meetings have beer held and a third is slated for March 21.

To date, participants have indicated the need for more public open space, more bicycle paths, small markets and housing. Land use changes, and industrial land shrinkage have fostered a partnership between the Planning Dept. and those who live and work in this part of the city, to work out a best plan for the area.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, who represents District 10 (which ends on the southern side of 16th Street) has been actively involved in discussions and responsible for an Interim Zoning Controls plan.

Meetings are held at the California College of Arts and Crafts, 1111-8th St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.









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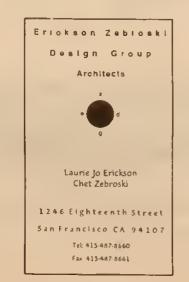
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## Community Meeting Spaghetti Dinner

at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House 953 De Haro Street at Southern Heights

March 20 at 5 p.m.

Parents / Teachers / Artists / Musicians / Neighbors / Mentors

Meet and join in open dialogue with the principal, assistant principal, and teachers from the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts

Volunteer your skills, services, or creative talents to help make the EDM Middle School the pride of our Hill

For more information call the PHNH at 826-8080 or the Enota D. Maxwell School of the Arts at 695-5905

### The Invalids of Summer

# Softball Passages

By David Matsuda

I started playing softball several years ago, when a friend and fellow Hill resident asked me to join a team for the chronologically challenged. I was 42, young of mind, somewhat decayed of body, and old enough to have known better. I said yes anyway—after all, how hard could it be? Older, but sadly no wiser.

Like inost groups of guys without a clue, we approached the future with a cavalier attitude. "No problem," was our response to the league office when they said we would have to play against younger teams because we didn't have enough "not ready for prime time" players to qualify for the over-35 division. In hindsight, this change in opponents from old, rusty guys like ourselves, to young, restless, and talented "hallers" should have been a warning signal as hright as a flare in the sky on a pitch-dark night Instead, self-delusion ruled the day, and we rested on the laurels of our past antics at family reunions and company picnics.

"Team sponsor? We don't need no stinkin' team sponsor!" Only now, as I thumb through the hindsight record book, do I realize the importance of having a sponsor who covers all the fees. We learned the truth of the adage "those who pay, but do not play, don't show up one day"; we were distracted and chronically shorthanded throughout the season.

We began the season of our dismemberment somewhat unsuspectingly at Rolph Field near Cesar Chavez. In game one our opponents did not take the field because they did not have enough players. Victory was ours by forfeit. Game two, same story, and victory was ours again. A 2 and 0 record, and we had not even broken a sweat. "Bring 'em on," we cheered to the accompaniment of so much

hooting and chest pounding

We showed up for our third game with dreams of playoffs, trophies, and a ticker-tape parade down 18th Street. Then something terrible happened: Everyone on the other team showed up. They glared at us like hungry wolves, and then pounced on us like we were grazing sheep.

We were up first. What they pitched we missed. What we hit they caught. When we ran they were there to tag us. Three straight outs. And then it was their turn at hat. What we pitched they hit. What they hit we did not catch. When they ran we were not there to tag them (The first of many such innings we would experience that season.)

In the second inning, when they led 30 to nothing, and visions of ice packs, Ben Gay, and workman's comp danced in our heads, the umpire invoked the "mercy killing" rule.

In game four the injured began to outnumber the fragilely healthy. Our shortstop was hit in the face by a ground ball that took a bad hop. The catcher, may he rest in peace, pulled hoth hamstrings rounding first hase, and I blew out a butt muscle. It got so bad that when someone on our team actually made it to first base and asked for a "courtesy runner." there was nobody left in the dugout healthy enough to run the hases for him.

Week after week, as the injuries mounted and the losses became more and more severe, we, the invalids of summer, hobbled off the field praying for an end to it all. Some were smarter than others, and either went into hiding or stopped answering the phone. The rest of us just showed up only to face another humiliating loss. The final tally at season's end: twenty or so runs for us, several hundred for them, and no one to blame but ourselves.

Most of the team quit after that season, but



Drawing by Marc Simol

a friend and I just couldn't go down without a fight. A couple weeks later we had e-mailed, phoned, and faxed our way into, a team sponsor, an entirely new group of guys, and another season. Our record as Remijio's Janitorial Service was a comparatively respectable 5 wins and 4 losses.

As Z Group Realtors we hovered around \*

the five hundred mark for the next two seasons, picking up a good player here and there, until that fateful day when our pitcher did not play. Someone brought in a friend who could "toss a ball over the plate." To make a long story short, when this guy took the mound we took the championship. Teams that had owned us in the past could not figure him out.

After two seasons as Ben's Boyz (in honor of my late father Ben Matsuda), with an even better pitcher, we are undefeated and in the hunt for our second championship. Those who have been with us for some time, as well as those who have just signed on, marvel at how far the team has come.

It is funny how doing the same thing for a while can help you mark the changes and transitions in your life. Am I the athlete of my youth? In a word, no. Frequent are the aches and mistakes that come with age, and painfully rare are the diving stops and the timely hits. I am now 'the coach,' content to play sometimes, and even more content to provide the atmosphere and nourish the chemistry that allows younger players to find themselves and flourish—noble perhaps, but more accepted than planned.

You don't have to play softhall to understand that our lives pass in stages. At this time in my life, softball has helped me to accept and make the most of these passages.

Dave Matsuda's fourth article on the homeless will appear in the April issue of the Potrero View.

Next month's installment will include interviews with Supervisor Gavin Newsom, George Smith, Director of the Mayor's Office on Homelessness, and Calvin Gibson of Ghde Memorial Church



### A SURVEY OF WORLD RELIGIONS.

Anthropologist Dr. Dave Matsuda, whose articles on homelessness have been running in the View in recent months (the fourth installment will appear in the April issue), is presenting a series of four lectures at the Main Library This cross-cultural comparative study will explore not only the common tales of creation and the doctrines that are the foundations of the world's religious traditions, but examine the complex global relationships that characterize them today

March 3, 2-4 p.m.: "What is Religion?"
March 17, 1-3 p.m.: "World Mythologies"
March 24, 2-4 p.m.: "Shamanism and Vodu"
March 13, 2-4 p.m.: "Eastern and Western
Religions"

The lectures will be in the Latino/Hispanie Community Meeting Room at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street. All programs at the Library are free

NATIONAL CEMETERY WALK. A female spy, Buffalo Soldiers, and 35 Medal of Honor recipients are among more than 30,000 people buried in San Francisco National Cemetery in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Join a free walking tour Tuesday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon. The half-mile walk involves an uphill climb. Participants should dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes. Reservations are required. For further information call the William Penn Mott Jr. Visitor Center at 561-4323 or 561-4314 (TTY.)

FROM RUBBLE TO RENAISSANCE, San Francisco recovered from the 1906 earthquake and fire in time to dazzle the world with its Panama-Pacific International Exhibition. Learn about the 1915 Fair Saturday, March 16, during a moderate 3-mile walk in the Presidio of San Francisco with National Park Service docent Rick Spear. The walk begins at 10 a.m. Reservations required; rain cancels. For information call 561-4323. Free.

Ist ANNUAL IRISH-AMERICAN LITER-ARY & CULTURAL FESTIVAL, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in San Francisco, will be held March 9 through 17. It will feature a variety of literary events, concerts, films, and dance recitals, capped off by a new and revitalized St. Patrick's Day Parade. Participating will be more than 30 prominent novelists, writers, musicians, journalists, filmmakers, dancers, artists, poets and scholars of the Irish Diaspora from Brooklyn to Belfast, to Brazil and the S.F. Bay Area. The festival will open with "Writing Irish America: William Kennedy and Friends," on Saturday, March 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the S.F Main Library's Koret Auditorium. For more information call 437-3412, ext 427, 826-0115, or visit gatesofgold2002@aol.com.

SAN FRANCISCO'S OPEN STUDIOS

celebrates its 27th anniversary with a unique event and kick-off for Open Studios 2002. ArtSpan, the producers of Open Studios in October, in association with The Art Store (a nationwide resource for art supplies), are hosting an exclusive event at The Art Store, 1414 Van Ness Ave. (at Bush Street), March 21, from 6 to 8 p.m., where artists will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with other artists and register for Open Studios. All artists who register will receive a special gift courtesy of The Art Store. RSVP to Carnille Hill, 861-9838.

ROVA: ARTS AND NEW LANGTON ARTS present two Ides of March concerts, Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16, at 8 p.m., at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom Street. Phone 626-5416 for more info or visit www.rova.org.



THE FIFTY CROWS GALLERY announces an exhibition of images by award-winning photographer Dan Budnik, on display from April 12 through May 12, a collection of over 60 photographs documenting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. The Gallery begins accepting reservations for group tours of more than ten on March 11. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays 1-5 p.m. Admission is free. The Gallery is located at 1074 Folsom at 7th Street. For information and to make reservations for group tours call 415-551-0067.

S.F. CAMERAWORK AND THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION announce an exhibition, "The James D. Phelan Award in Photography 2001/2002," from March 8-30, at Fifty Crows Gallery, 1074 Folsom Street. The opening reception and awards presentation will be March 8, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

At the SFCamerawork Gallery, 1246 Folsom Street, "No Exit: Images of Imprisonment" will continue through March 23. Admission to the galleries is free. On March 19 at 6:30 p.m., Deborah Luster, who has been photographing Louisiana's incarcerated population since 1998, will talk about her ongoing documentary project, for which she has been awarded the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize. Admission to the lecture is \$6 for the general public, \$4 for members and students. For more information call 415-863-1015, or visit www.sfcamerawork.org.

### ART IN CITY HALL:

March 2-April 14: "Pulse" the first annual City Hall staff art show, an exhibit of artwork by City Hall employees, volunteers and interns.

"Eyes of Hope: Lost Portraits From San Francisco's 'Greek Town'1914-1922," portraits from studio photographer Leon Pantoti

March 2-April 21: "Don't Call Me Honey: Photographs of Women and Their Work," by Ann P. Meredith.

Thursday, March 12, at noon, the "Don't Call Me Honey" forum.

ROCK MY WORLD: The California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC), marking the 50th anniversary of the term "rock 'n roll," surveys new art that draws on rock music as a critical reference point. The group exhibition is on view from March 23 to May 11 at the Logan Galleries on the S.F. Campus of CCAC, 1111 Eighth Street. The exhibition is free and open to the public Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday. There will be an opening reception Friday, March 22 from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Phone 551-9210 for more information.

BE A DOCENT. Orientation and training for City Hall docent volunteers begins March and continues for one hour every Thursday in March at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. Call 554-5780 for information. Complimentary docent tours take place Mondays at noon and 2 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

BASSIST MARK DRESSER in a solo concert performing his own works will appear at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom Street on Saturday, March 23. Tickets are \$8, \$6 for students and seniors. Call 626-4516 for information or visit www. newlangtonarts org

BRAINY FUN with playwright Brighde Mullins and guests Justin Chin (writer and performance artist), Brian Thorstenson (playwright, poet, and actor) and Maria Breaux (playwright and filmmaker) will be presented Thursday, March 9, 8 p.m. at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Steet (between 11th and South Van Ness). The reading/presentation will be followed by a question and answer period, and a reception for the artists. Admission is \$5-10 sliding scale. For info and reservations, call 554-0402.

S.F. COMMUNITY POWER CO-OP OPEN HOUSE March 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at 1307 Evans Street. Find out how the Co-op can help YOU reduce your energy use and save money. A free energy-efficient refrigerator will be given away to member of the audience. For info call 550-7155 or see www.SFpower.org.

"HISTORIC WALKS IN SAN FRANCISCO: 18 Trails through the City's Past," a slide presentation by Rand Richards, will be presented by the S.F. Historical Society Tuesday, March 12, 8 p.m., at the UCSF Laurel Heights Campus, 3333 California Street. Call 775-1111 for more info.

"SONGS INSPIRED BY LITERATURE," a benefit CD to raise awareness and funds for literacy programs has been released by The SIBL Project. The CD features Bruce Springsteen, Grace Slick, Suzanne Vega, and many others in performance of songs that were inspired by a book, poem, or play. Funds raised will directly benefit literacy projects that outreach to over 44 million Americans who cannot read above the fifth grade level. The CD can be purchased for \$15 at www.SIBLproject.org and at independent bookstores nationwide, and is available at public libraries. SIBL's 2002 Literacy Campaign Launeh and CD release party will be held Tuesday, March 12, from 6-8 p.m., at the San Francisco Center for the Book, 300 DeHaro Street, near 16th.

MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE EVENTS include Joseph Nevins, discussing his book Operation Gatekeeper, an account of the Clinton administration's drastic effort to regain control of the U.S.-Mexico border, Tucsday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Daniel Burton Rose on the battle of Seattle and the anti-globalization movement, Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.; photojournalist Melanie Friend will present her documentation, photographs and interviews, of the return of the Kosovars to their homes in the Balkans, Tuesday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.; the monthly reading group will discuss Benny Morris' Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict 1881-2001, Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

THE ELECTIONS TASK FORCE ON REDISTRICTING will hear public comment on Saturday March 16, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Public comment is limited to three infinites on items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Task Force. For more information about the meeting and/or the Sunshine Ordinance, call 581-2317.

SLUG WORKSHOPS: A special two-day class in heckeeping for heginners, Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, March 3, from noon to 4 p.m. The workshop is located at the Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue at Lawton. The cost is \$65 for SLUG and S.F. Beckeeping Association members, and \$80 for non-members, Pre-registration is required Lunch will be provided. Call 285-7584

Free workshops are available in worm composting, Saturday, March 2; growing roses organically, Saturday, March 9, composting in the Mission (in Spanish), Saturday, March 16; integrated pest management, Saturday, March 23, introduction to irrigation systems, Saturday, March 30; all from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Garden for the Environment. Call 285-7584

Learn to build your own plant containers at the S.F. Tool Lending Center San Bruno Avenue at Bacon. Call 467-8665 to register.

STARR KING PARK is home to the largest wildflower display on Potrero Hill, more than 4 acres, beginning in March and continuing through April and May. Over 36 different California native plants will sequentially bloom, one of which has not been found anywhere else in San Francisco in 100 years. Jake Sigg, former president of the California Plant Society statewide and the SF chapter will lead a walk through the park on Saturday, March 16, at 9 a m.



"Raven," that well-known birdwatcher, saw a Great Horned Owl on the fence at the Rec Center one recent evening. At first the ear tufts made him think it was a cat - he's a wellknown cat-watcher as well . . . An 18th Street landlord (whose name already has lived in infamy) is rumored to be considering the addition of another story to his building on 18th and Connecticut. As with any construction project in S.F., call your lawyer first Julia Segrove Jaurigui has been awarded a grant from the Potrero Neuvo Fund for her video project FOO: Frequency of Occurences, which tells of the political coming of age of a 17-year-old Latina facing the expansion of a power plant in her neighborhood. Shooting will start on the Hill this summer . . . The fatherdaughter team of Maria and Donald Schell are the authors of the recently published My Father, My Daughter: Pilgrims on the Road to Santiago. The Schells are 12-year residents of the Hill, where Donald Scholl is rector of Saint Gregory's. A large part of the book was written at Farley's and is available at Christopher's Books . . . The S.F. Center for the Book is moving, but staying in the same bright blue building at 300 De Haro. The new entrance is on 16th Street. The Center is open weekdays 12-5 — check out their exhibits, sign up for a workshop, try your hand at bookmaking with Peter Linenthal . . .

### **Art On View**

### Garland Fielder

The Melting Point Gallery, 1340 Bryant St. at Division, presents an exhibit of the works of Bay Area artist Garland Fielder. On view will be his most recent mixed media pieces as well as his earlier works. Opening night reception Thurs., March 14, starting at 5 p.m., at the gallery. The exhibit will be on display through March 19.

### 'Double Vision'

In celebration of women's history month Karen Wenger and Pauline Crowther Scott will show their paintings, drawings, and mixed media "fabrications" at Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., from March 31 through May 16, Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.



"Bishop," mixed media on canvas, by Garland Fielder

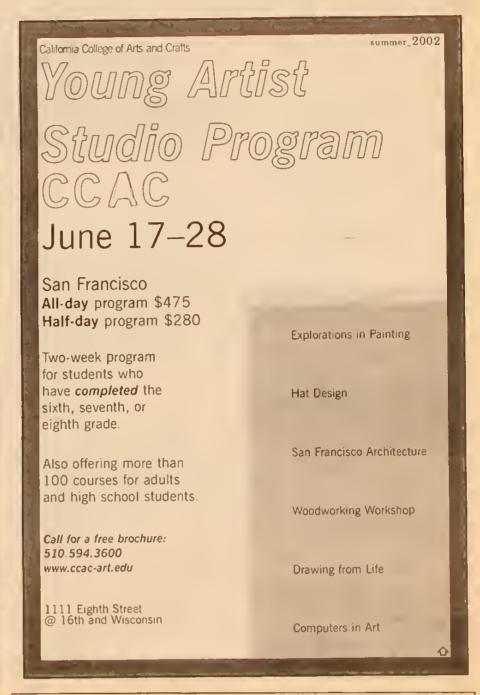


Shadows in the Afternoon, acrylic on canvas, by Pauline Crowther Scott



"Berest," oil on canvas, by Karen Wenger







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### Filmmaker Barbet Schroeder's Early Films at Center for The Arts

A Radiant Abyss. Early Films by Barbet Schroeder, a series of early works by maverick director Barbet Schroeder, best known for the Academy Award winning Reversal of Fortune, about the Klaus von Bulow scandal, will screen in the Screening Room, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Mission and Third streets.), on Friday evenings, in March (March 8-22). A former film critic, Schroeder established his own production company, Les Films du Losange, in 1964, producing films by Jacques Rivette, Wim Wenders and Rainer Werner Fassbinder. In celebration of his recently released comeback film, Our Lady of the Assassins, based on a novel by Fernando Vallejo, the special series features three of Schroeder's early films that reflect his deeply critical eye and black sense of humor: More (1969), Le Vallee (1971), and Maitresse (1976) Admission is \$6 general, \$3 Center members, students and seniors. For more info, call (415) 978-ARTS or visit www.YerbaBuenaArts.org.

### World Premiere of Lavender Lockeroom at Theatre Rhinoceros

Performed in a mock "word-for-word" style Lavender Lockeroom, a comedy with balls, borrows the spirit of the "one-handed" pulp novels of the 1950s and 1960s yet spins them with a gay liberation moral. Featuring the Hot Pants Homo Players, the run opens at the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros (Mission and So. Van Ness streets.), on Saturday, March 9 at 8:30 p.m. Showtimes are Thursday - Saturday, at 8:30 p.m., Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Previews are March 7 and 8, at 8:30 p.m.. Written and directed by F. Allen Sawyer, the production completes the trilogy Sawyer started with Hot Pants Homo and Senator Swish. Tickets are \$15 -\$18. Previews, \$15. To purchase tickets, call the Rhino Box Office at (415) 861-5079. For additional info, visit www.therhino.org.

### Salute To The Joy Of Making Music With Paula West

The Community Music Center's Salute to the Joy of Making Music comes for a return engagement at the Plush Room, Monday, April 1. The "Salute" event is an opportunity to support the Music Center's mission of providing community access to music while enjoying a very special performance. This year's festivities feature noted jazz and cabaret singer Paula West, accompanied by long-time Music Center friend Ken Muir. West, who made San Francisco her home in 1989, performs nationally. Last year, she performed at New York City's Algonquin Hotel for two months. Beginning with cocktails at 7 p.m., the evening features a post-performance reception with the artists. For more information and tickets, contact Fran Hildebrand at (415) 647-6015, ext. 76, or visit www.sfmusic.org.

### Footloose Celebrates International Women's Month At Venue 9

Footloose presents Women's Work, an ongoing, bi-monthly series featuring live performances of dance, theater, music, spoken word and multimedia. Footloose Artistic Director and Producer, Mary Alice Fry, brings together a diverse group of women to share the bill on Tuesday nights. The series, which has been running without interruption since 1996, has featured over 600 women artists. Honoring International Women's Month, the March series begins Tuesday, March 5, Venue 9 (Folsom and Howard streets), with Phyllis Dantzler's Juror No. 7, a humorous tale of being called to jury duty and having to account for run-ins with the law.



By Julia Segrove



Silhouette of gay Orthodox men dancing, from the film Trembling Before G-d.

Also featured in the March 5 program are Nena St. Louis's Jump, a critically acclaimed, autobiographical solo work about what happened during the Betty Crocker era when nobody realized that some children hear voices that are neither imaginary nor friendly, and Jeanne Disney's Blurred Boundaries, a piece about the many emotions and concerns of the single, midthirties individual through monologues, voice and dance. Tickets, \$8-10 sliding scale. Performances, 8 p.m. For tickets and more info ahout the March 12, 19, and 26 shows, call (415) 289-2000 or visit www.venue9.com.

### Women's History Month Concert at Bethany United Methodist

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band eelebrates Women's History Month with a celebration of music composed by or for women. Conducted by Artistic Director, Jadine Louie, the one night concert features the Band's indoor premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Freedom Dreams*, commissioned for the Band as part of the 2000 Continental Harmony Project, and the West Coast Premiere of Julie Giroux's *Louisiana Parish Sketches*.

Women in Music is performed Tuesday, March 19 at 8:15 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist, 1268 Sanchez Street (at Clipper Street.). Other pieces featured at the concert include Tracey Rush's Spirit of Freedom Fanfare, Mark Camphouse's A Movement for Rosa (Parks), Elena Roussanova-Lucas' Harvesting the Fields of Russia, and Anne McGinty's The Red Balloon. Admission free. For more info, call (415) 554-0402.

### Lockdown at ODC

Choreographer Kirstin E. Williams' Strong Current Dance Company presents an evening of dance, music and spoken word titled Lockdown that reflects and gives voice to the stories of incarcerated women in our society. A fusion of fierce, athletic modern dance, expressive music, powerful spoken word and dynamic hip hop sequences, Lockdown is guaranteed to provoke thought and generate energy! The production begins Friday, March 1, at ODC Theatre (17th and Shotwell streets), and runs through March 10. All shows, 8 p.ni. Tickets, \$13 in advance, \$16 at the door. No one turned away for lack of funds. Both Saturday and Sunday performances benefit Critical Resistance and CCWP-California Coalition for Women Prisoners: "The Fire Inside" Advocacy for women in prison. Buy tickets at ODC Box Office, (415) 863-9384, or visit www.odetheater.org.

## **Trembling Before G-d** at the Castro Theatre

Trembling Before G-d, featured in last year's Jewish Film Festival and an Official Selection of the 2001 Sundance Film Festival, opens at the Castro Theatre, on February 28 for a limited run. Directed by Sandi Sımcha Dubowski, the award-winning documentary, which features interviews with gay Orthodox Jews - some hidden, some not - captures a group of people who face a profound dilemma; how to reconcile their love of Judaism and the clear-cut Biblical prohibition that forbids homosexuality. From the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabhi to closeted married Hasidic gays to lesbian highschool sweethearts, many have been tragically rejected and their pain in real. But with irony, humor and resilience, they love, struggle and debate with a thousand-year old tradition.

### Volcano Songs Comes to the Brava Theatre

Brava! For Women in the Arts/The Brava Theatre Center (24th and York streets) proudly presents internationally renowned Duo Guardabarranco's Volcano Songs, for one night only, Saturday, March 23, at 8 p.m. Katia and Salvador Cardenal (Duo Guardabarranco), Nicaragua's illustrious brother and sister singersongwriter duo, who have performed in more than 15 countries with artists such as Silvio Rodriguez, Mercedes Sosa, Jackson Browne, Melissa Etheridge, Miriam Makeba, Pete Seeger, Holly Near, and Peter, Paul & Mary, will perform songs old and new. The concert commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Sanctuary Movement in the Americas. Tickets are \$22 general; \$18 for students and seniors. For more info, call (415) 647-2822 or go to www.brava.org.

### Goat Hall Serves Bernstein and Supper

Goat Hall Productions presents an elegant supper show, "Bernstein Banquet," March 8 and 9, featuring one of their favorite musical theatre composers, Leonard Bernstein. On the program will be his song cycles, such as La Bonne Cuisine (aka Recipe Songs), as well as excerpts from his theatrical works including West Side Story, Trouble in Tahiti, and a generous taste of Candide, which GHP will stage as a concert production in October. The cost of admission, \$25, includes a light repast. For tickets and more information call 289-6877. Goat Hall Productions is located at 400 Missouri at 19th Street.

# An Evening of Musical Film at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, in cooperation with the Jewish Music Festival, presents an evening of musical film with Isa Kremer: The People's Diva, and Daughter of Vilna: The Life in Song of Masha Roskies, in the Screening Room of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Mission and Third streets), at 8 pm on Tuesday, March 26. Directed by Nina Baker Feinberg, Isa Kremer portrays the charismatic stage performer admired not only for her exquisite voice and beauty, but also for her strength and courage. Viewed as an artistic pioneer of her time, Kremer's ability to sing in 24 languages brought her international acclaim. She is also recognized as the first woman to bring Yiddish songs to the world's concert stages. Veteran director Josh Waletzky's Daughter of Vilna is a documentation of life in Poland told through Yiddish songs as remembered by Masha Roskies, whose children are Ruth Weiss, a Harvard professor, and David Roskies, a Columbia professor. For ticket info, call (415) 621-0556 or visit www.sfjff.org.

# The Piano Lesson in Limited Run at the Hansberry Theatre

August Wilson's The Piano Lesson is now at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (555 Sutter Street) for a limited run. At the center of this robust drama by one of America's most acclaimed playwrights, is a 137-year-old piano, a family heirloom, which also binds an African American family in 1930s' Pittsburgh to their ancestors who were slaves. Wilson's epic drama wrestles with the legacy of race and power in early 20th-century America and the competing claims of history, family, and culture. Directed by Stanley E. Williams and featuring Shante Austin, Eleni Berhanesclase, Lonnie Ford, and Roger Bridges, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play's run ends March 17. Performances are Thursday - Saturdays, at 8 p.m., and Sundays, at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$22 to \$30. \$5 discount for students and seniors. Group discounts available. Tickets can be purchased at TIX Union Square and Tickets.com or at www.LorraineHansberryTheatre.com. Call (415) 474-8800 for more info.

### hilo film festival Announces New Program and Revisits Old Films

Marc Vogl and Brian L. Perkins, hilo film festival founders and organizers, have announced a line-up of films to be shown at their 5th festival including films from around the world, and seven from Bay Area filmmakers.

The range of subjects include knitting, cops, dogs on their deathbed, Christian noise music, not doing your homework, skateboarding on Polk Street, the mysterious fate of Sir Robert Scott, and, for a second year in a row, karate. They embody the high concept/low budget approach to filmmaking that the festival celebrates.

In addition to two programs of shorts, there will be a retrospective program on Saturday at 10 p.m., featuring selections from the first four years of the festival. On Sunday, there will be two documentary programs — "Suburbs" and "Cities." "Suburbs" features Standing by Yourself by Josh Koury, a penetrating portrait of disaffected youth. "Cities" pairs Leena Pendharkar's Dreaming in Code, about a dot com in the Mission, with the Whispered Media Collective's Boom: The Sound of Eviction, about the effect dot coms have on Mission residents. Proceeds from this screening will benefit the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition.

Films are shown Friday through Sunday, March 29-31, at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street For screening times and more information call 267-0642

Lack of Unnamed Geographica Frustrates an Entire Generation

# **County Streets Predate Original Counties**

### By Lester Zeidman

This is the problem Everything has already been named

During the gold rush of 1849, it is estimated that over 21,000 people emigrated overland from the United States to California in search of their fortune. The California trail was already well mapped out and the emigrants easily noted their progress from Independence, Missouri to Fort Laramie to Chimney Rock to South Pass to the Humboldt Sink. John Townsend's situation was a little different. While the trail existed during his 1844 overland journey, it was still raw land and largely unexplored. And the landmarks were still unnamed.

It was the Stevens-Murphy-Townsend Party that is credited with naming the Truckee River after their Native Indian guide. For all anyone knew, the guide knew the river by an entirely different name, as did every Indian in the Eastern Sierra. But the name stuck and to this day we know it as the Truckee River. They also named Truckee Lake but when the Donner Party got stuck there in 1846, the site became a bit more notorious and everyone since hustles by that lake, fearing a sudden snowstorm/saying that is the "Donner Lake"

And that's how it happened. People came out west in the 1800's and just started naming things. Mountains, rivers, creeks, you name it – they named it! The miners named things all the time; Jackson's Creek was named for a lawyer who mined there. The town of Volcano wasn't named for a volcano but because the jagged ground in the area made people think the area was part of an old volcano. At one point there were over 100 sites named Dry Creek because people would happen on the scene in the dry season and just name it either for the lack of water or the lack of gold. The names just started popping up and stuck.

Today everything is named. No one in the world can name anything because it's already been named. You can't change any names because people hold dear the names they grow up with, even if the names aren't what they used to be. Which of course brings me back to my favorite subject. Restoring the original street names to the east/west streets of Potrero Hill. It's a brutal battle but someone has to do it.

John Townsend and Comelius DeBoom laid out the streets on Potrero Hill during the Gold Rush year of 1849. They attempted to sell this land in the months preceding the death of Francisco De Haro in November 1849. The plan failed either due to lack of demand or the fact that Townsend and DeBoom did not own the land they were trying to sell.

The north/south streets of Potrero Hill were named after the states and territories of the United States and the east/west streets were named for the counties of California. I have attributed this naming to a patriotic act in celebration of statehood but, assuming that Townsend did indeed name the streets, California was still more than a year away from statehood when he did so. And the counties did not even exist, at least not officially

It wasn't until February 18, 1850 that the original 27 counties of California were officially designated by statute of the California Legislature. These areas were already identified on maps but the origin of the names is actually rather obscure. Mariposa, Napa, Humboldt, Solano, Alameda, Sierra – these names appeared on maps held by gold seekers from all comers of the world. Desperately traveling great distances for months at a time for the chance to labor in a cold river and strike it rich, they pored over these maps every day. They longed for their first sight of California, holding a vision of Eldorado evoked by these foreign words on a map

Those words became streets on Potrero Hill Townsend and DeBoom were not successful in selling the Hill to the miners but they certainly get high marks for appealing to the masses by naming north/south streets after the bome states of their potential customers. If you were bomesick for mom back in Missouri, maybe a parcel on Missouri-Street is just the cure. The east/west streets were named after California counties, and many of these real NAMES were replaced by numbers in 1895. Here's a brief rundown of county-named streets on the Hill.

• Mariposa Street cuts across the lower portion of Potrero Hill, it starts at the bay and continues with only one interruption to Harrison Street. In defiance of the number mavens, Mariposa Street would not line up neatly and it must have driven them crazy that they couldn't name it 17.1/2 Street! Mariposa (the Spanish word for "butterfly") County once included most of Southern California. On September 19, 1806, Padre Muñoz, who accompanied Gabriel Moraga on his expedition through the San Joaquin Valley, wrote in his diary.

"It is called the place of the manposas because of their great multitude especially at night and morning. One of Jour Joorporals got one in his car causing him considerable annoyance and no little discomfort in its extraction"

 Alameda Street takes its name from the county across the bay. Alameda is Spanish for a grove of poplar or cottonwood trees but generally refers to any grove of shade trees. The area was originally included in a land grant of 1842 called Arroyo de la Alameda. Alameda County was created in 1853 from parts of Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties.

• Sierra Street originally extended from the bay to Potrero Avenue but rather than become 21st Street, it is but a one block stretch between Missouri and Texas streets. Old records show it along Kentucky Street (Third) but the topography of the Hill prevented a neat numerical tie to 20th and 22nd streets. Sierra is Spanish for "saw blade" and, by extension, "mountain range." While Sierra County brings to mind the 400-mile-long Sierra Nevada mountain range, "sierra" can be any two or more peaks in a row. Sierra County was formed from part of Yuba County on April 16, 1852.

• Humboldt Street. The naming of Humboldt County was just another tribute to the German geographer, Alexander Von Humboldt (1769–1859) More sites in the western U.S bear his name than that of any other explorer His essay on the kingdom of New Spain, published in Stuttgart in 1808, included the first reliable account of Upper California Humboldt County was formed on May 12, 1853 but Humboldt Street was already crossing Potrero Hill in 1849.

Solano Street (now 18th Street) predates Solano County but there were probably more inhabitants of the county in 1850 than there were on Solano Street at the time. The county was named at the request of General Mariano Vallejo in honor of the South American missionary, St Francis Solanus (1549–1610) and his namesake Francisco Solano (a k a Sem Yeto), the chief of the Suisun Patwin Indians who lived in the area

· Napa Street (now 20th Street) The Suisun Patwin Indians also inhabited large areas of the Central Valley, Napa Valley, and the delta and the abundance of seafood and waterfowl diminished their need for agricultural skills. They must have been in awe of the Gold Rusb emigration and the rapid changes it wrought. The word Napa first appears in Mission Dolores baptismal records. It appears again in a land grant in 1838. Napa or Trancas y Jalapa. The origin of the word is believed to come from the Patwin Indians According to the son of General Vallejo, Platón Vallejo, who learned the Patwin language, Napa means "near mother," "near home," or 'motherland'' The city of Napa was laid out in 1848 and Napa County was one of the original counties formed in 1850, a year after Napa Street appeared on Potrero Hill

• Butte Street (now 19th Street) Butte
County was also an original county and the word
butte is derived from a Germanic stem designating a blunt extension or elevation. It is also a
French term for a small isolated elevation, a
knoll, mound or hillcock. It was first used
generically by the Lewis and Clark expedition. It
was Col. Fremont who described it best in 1853

"I know of no other [word] which would be its precise equivalent. It is applied to the detached hills or ridges which rise rapidly and reach too high to be called hills or ridges and not high enough to be called mountains."

So while Butte Street predated the official county designation, it certainly was appropriate for Potrero Hill, not quite a mountain but too high to be called a mere hill.

• Madera Street. Old tax maps show Madera (the Spanish word for 'wood') Street as long as Sierra and Humboldt streets but it didn't appear on street maps until after the 1906 earthquake. The California Lumber Company named the town of Madera when they built a flume to earry lumber from the forest area to the railroad in 1876. Madera County was formed on March 11, 1876 from a part of Fresno County north and west of the San Joaquin River

• Yuba and Yolo streets (now 25th & 26th streets) were both named after original counties. The Yuba River was originally "discovered" by the famed explorer Jedediah Smith in 1828. John Sutter named the town (Yuba City) at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather rivers after the local tribe of Indians referred to as Yubu Yolo is a corruption of a Patwin Indian word Yoloy – a place abounding with "rushes" (tular) Yodoi was also a name of a Patwin village near what is now Knights Landing.





Naming streets after states and counties was probably seen as an adept way of naming many streets quickly. Another way was to name them for their ultimate destination, for example San Jose and San Bruno streets. As San Francisco grew and more streets appeared, the street names were a kind of local nomenclature that appealed only to those on that particular street. Then the bureaucrats got involved and soon streets were being named after numbers, instead of after people, places, insects, and plants.

The city of Sacramento was just a valley crossroad in 1849 but it grew quickly and must have had a band of morons in charge who were so unimaginative that the best they could come up with were letters and numbers for their streets, which designations survive to this day. In San Francisco, numbers spread out over the Bayview as did letters that initially described the "outer lands," as the Richmond and Sunset districts were called. But sanity eventually prevailed and the lettered streets were given names while keeping the alphabetical sequence.

names while keeping the alphabetical sequence On Potrero Hill, the street names prevailed after the Gold Rush even though actual paved streets didn't start appearing until after the 1906 earthquake. Numbered streets had taken bold in the Mission District in the 1860s (replacing such names as Falcon and Eagle streets (18th and 19th streets respectively. In an effort to deconfuse the Post Office, the numbered streets were extended to Potrero Hill in 1895, obliterating the names so evocative of California's heritage and Potrero Hill's past. To restore these historic names to the streets of Potrero Hill would be a crowning achievement and correct a bureaucratic snafu that should never have occurred. Looking forward to more comments. controversy, conspiracies and conjectures: email to streets@potreroview.net

This map dates from 1892. The original (top) was published in Chicago by George F. Cram. The enlargement of Potrero Hill shows all the county streets from Alameda to Fresno streets except Humboldt which would be between Sierra and Nevada streets. Note the path of Precita Creek as it flows to Islais Creek Channel.

Courtesy of P. Linenthal (P.H. Archive Proj.)

### Potrero Hill Street Name Restoration Project

Phase One:

Restore to Potrero Hill the East/West Street Names to their original California County names between Mariposa Street and Cesar Chavez and between San Francisco Bay and the 101 Freeway.

18th Street becomes

Solano Street

19th Street becomes

Butte Street

20th Street becomes

Napa Street
Phase Two:

Restore Nebraska Street between Napa and Solano Streets.

Phase Three:

Restore 21st Street through 26th Street. Names to be determined. Original names include Sierra, Humboldt, Nevada, Sonoma, Yolo and Yuba. Names available include Alpine & Colusa (Army).

e-mail: Streets@potreroview.net



2001 — Tee Minot, owner of Christopher's Books, Virginia Berich Carlton ond her son Dennis Corlton, in fromt of Christopher's Books, holding a copy of the 1917 photograph.

# A VIEW FROM THE HILL 1917 — REVISITED



1917 — Mr. Dovid Bertich, Mrs. Frances Bertich, Bernice Bertich, Virginia Berich, in Ford touring in front of their home at 327 Missouri, near 18th. In the bockground is the building that houses Christopher's Books today.

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# Infertility Problems May Respond to Alternatives

By Anne Perkins

Infertility is defined as the inability to conceive after two years of trying. If they so choose, couples (both the man and the woman) can undergo a complete Western medical reproductive work-up to determine the cause of their infertility.

Along with being very expensive, recent.reports indicate a relatively low success rate with Western medicine, making alternative methods, such as Traditional Chinese Medicine or TCM, seem more attractive.

In addition, in February, 2002, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a warning about the risks of certain assisted reproductive technology procedures such as in vitro fertilization.

CDC doctors warn that with assisted fertility there are multiple babies 56 percent of the time. Multiple births happen only about three percent of the time when pregnancy occurs naturally. Women with twins, triplets and higher numbers of children are at significantly higher risk for pregnancy complications,

and the babies themselves are at risk for low birth weight and long-term disability. This latest information only gives more credence to alternative medicine choices such as TCM.

When a couple is unable to conceive a child, it can be heartbreaking. TCM offers hope to the childless couple by establishing harmony within the body.

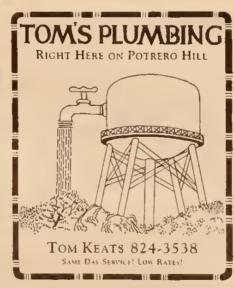
Not only does TCM assist in treating infertility, it also serves to enhance the function of the whole body. This is especially important for people over 40 as it stimulates overall health which in turn affects reproductive health.

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Anne Perkins, RN, LAc, is o TCM proctitioner ot SOMA Acupuncture & Noturol Heolth Clinic.





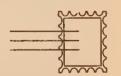




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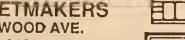
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At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

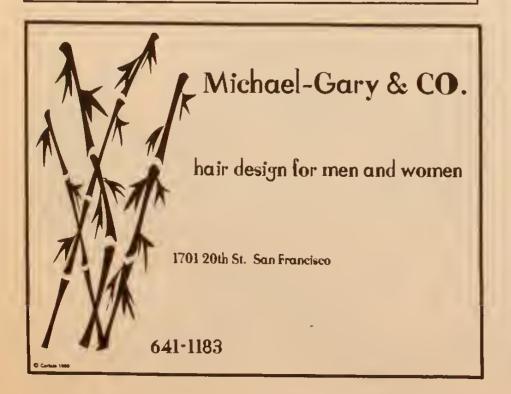
One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained.

After his article about understanding Islam - and Judaism and Christianity - in the February issue of The Potrero View, writer Dave Matsuda offers this second inaugural address given by President Abraham Lincoln on Saturday, March 4, 1865, as additional food for thought. On the 137th anniversary of Lincoln's address, the roots of conflict mentioned here still have meaning regarding the global conflicts of today.

Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh. If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have bome the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

March 4, 1865







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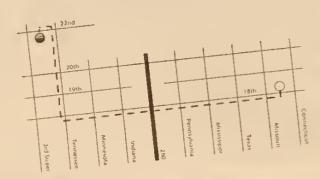
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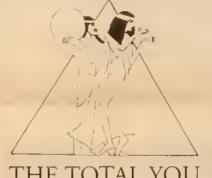


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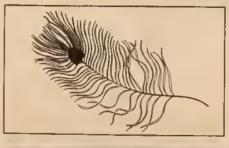
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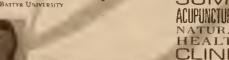
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